AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to cancel Claims 1 - 13 and add new Claims 14 - 31 as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 -13 (Canceled)

14. (New) A linear drive device comprising:

an excitation winding producing a variable magnetic field;

a magnetic-flux-guiding main yoke body accommodating the excitation winding and having multiple limbs including a central limb;

a winding-free counter-yoke body disposed opposite to the main yoke body;

an axial gap formed between the main yoke body and the counter-yoke body;

an armature body provided with at least two permanent magnetic magnet parts arranged axially one behind the other and having opposite magnetization, each of the at least two magnet parts having a magnet axial extension dimension, the armature body being set in axially oscillating motion by the magnetic field of the excitation winding in the axial gap; and

each of the multiple limbs of the main yoke body having a pole surface facing the armature body and defining a pole surface width dimension extending across the axial width of the pole surface, the pole surface width dimension of each of the multiple limbs being substantially the same, each of the multiple limbs being spaced apart from one another axially by a pole surface spacing dimension, the magnet axial extension dimension of each magnet part being approximately equal to the sum of the pole surface width dimension and the pole surface spacing dimension.

15. (New) The drive device according to claim 14, further comprising:

winding windows holding the excitation winding between the limbs and having a window axial extension dimension extending between the adjacent limbs; and

pole shoe bodies disposed on the pole surfaces of the limbs of the main yoke body and having a pole axial extension dimension being greater than the window axial extension dimension.

16. (New) The drive device according to claim 15, wherein the pole shoe bodies are placed on the respective limbs.

17. (New) The drive device according to claim 14, wherein the counter-yoke body includes counter limbs having axial width dimensions at pole surfaces corresponding to the limbs of the main yoke body.

18. (New) The drive device according to claim 14, wherein the counter-yoke body is embodied as plate-shaped.

19. (New) The drive device according to claim 14, wherein the pole surface width dimension of at least one pole surface is substantially the same as the stroke distance of the armature body during the oscillating movement.

20. (New) The drive device according to claim 14, wherein the magnet parts are embodied as plate-shaped.

21. (New) The drive device according to claim 14, wherein the armature body is rigidly connected to a pump piston of a compressor.

22. (New) A linear drive device comprising

an excitation winding producing a variable magnetic field;

a magnetic-flux-guiding main yoke body accommodating the excitation winding and having multiple limbs including a central limb and lateral limbs;

a winding-free counter-yoke body disposed opposite to the main yoke body;

an axial gap formed between the main yoke body and the counter-yoke body;

an armature body provided with at least two permanent magnetic magnet parts arranged axially one behind the other and having opposite magnetization, each of the at least two magnet parts having an axial extension dimension, the armature body being set in axially oscillating motion by the magnetic field of the excitation winding in the axial gap; and

the main yoke body and the counter-yoke body forming a common yoke body with common lateral limbs, the central limb of the main yoke body having an axial width dimension at a pole surface facing the armature body, the axial width dimension being at least as large as the axial extension dimension of each of the at least two magnet parts.

23. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, wherein the axial width of the central limb is greater than the axial width of each lateral limb.

24. (New) The drive device according to claim 23, wherein the axial width of the central limb is at least two times greater than the axial width of each lateral limb.

25. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, further comprising:

winding windows holding the excitation winding between the limbs and having a window axial extension dimension extending between the adjacent limbs; and

the stroke of the armature part during the oscillating movement being smaller than the window axial extension dimension.

26. (New) The drive device according to claim 25, wherein the window axial extension dimension is approximately equal to the maximum distance between the pole surface of the central limb and the pole surfaces of the corresponding lateral limbs.

27. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, wherein the counter-yoke body includes counter limbs having axial width dimensions at pole surfaces corresponding to the limbs of the main yoke body.

28. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, wherein the counter-yoke body is embodied as plate-shaped.

29. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, wherein the pole surface width dimension of at least one pole surface is substantially the same as the stroke distance of the armature body during the oscillating movement.

30. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, wherein the magnet parts are embodied as plate-shaped.

31. (New) The drive device according to claim 22, wherein the armature body is rigidly connected to a pump piston of a compressor.